

# PENNEY HOUSE

Canton



Total Rehab. Investment:	\$342,175
Indirect Impact:	\$390,079
Total Economic Impact:	\$732,254
Jobs Created:	18

Joe Van Esley, the owner of the historic Penney House in Canton, cites his reason for rescuing the house as: "You don't take anything with you when you go, but you can leave something behind. So why not leave it better?" Van Esley bought the house as a rental and continued to use it as a rental for some time. Finally, he decided he wanted to restore the historic farmhouse. Van Esley replaced rotting windows, rebuilt the porch, repaired plaster, painted, and much more. The house went from being an eyesore to being a showpiece in Canton Township. He states that along the way he "found a new appreciation of history, met people who cared, received a lot of insight on the process, and shared a sense of accomplishment." He credits Canton Township officials, Melissa McLaughlin and Terri Bennett with leading the charge in Canton to leave something behind - to "blend generations."

Location:	44675 Joy Road
Project Contact:	Joe Van Esley
Original Use:	Single Family Home
Current Use:	Commercial
SHPO Contact:	Bryan Lijewski / 517.373.1631
Completed:	2006



517.373.1630 - STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE - [www.michigan.gov/shpo](http://www.michigan.gov/shpo)

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